

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY International
SUBJECT World Power Conference

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1. The World Power Conference was held at Quitandinha Hotel in Petropolis. Petropolis is a manufacturing town in a resort area for Rio de Janeiro. It is at an elevation of about 2,500 feet and a distance of about 50 miles from Rio.
2. Registration for the World Power Conference was on Sunday morning 25 July with the first introductory session that afternoon. The schedules for the technical sections were confirmed and the various committees were formed.
3. The technical papers were presented under seven different general headings with one or more sessions devoted to each subject depending on the number of papers to be discussed. All papers were presented as preprints on the number to be presented, prior to the actual session. The technical sessions therefore, consisted of summaries by the rapporteur followed by discussion among the authors and other participants. Rather frank and helpful discussions took place in most sessions.
4. The subject matter of the seven general topics were as follows:
 - a) Planning of the Electric Power Industry
 - b) The Effect of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Climates on the Electrical Industry
 - c) Natural and Derived Fuels
 - d) Wind Power
 - e) Solar Energy
 - f) Uses of Electric Power
 - g) International Hydro-Electric Developments.
5. As general comment it can be said that these sessions were helpful in exchanging information from various countries. There was little new fundamental information presented but many of the papers gave a very good summary of the "state of the art" in the various countries.

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6. From the viewpoint of [redacted] fundamental research in general, the two most significant sessions were on "Wind Power" and "Solar Energy". The former shows little promise for firm power development while the latter must be the hope for the future. It was generally agreed that with the present state of knowledge and the present economics of fuel, that solar energy has little prospects for the near future for large scale power plants. It was generally agreed, however, that for the conservation of fuel for power purposes, it would be highly desirable to use present knowledge to utilize solar energy for as much comfort heating as possible. In addition, more utilization should be made of solar energy as a source for refrigeration energy for comfort cooling. The first power utilization will probably come where discontinuous power can be utilized in remote areas for pumping water during daylight hours. This source would be important for irrigation and other purposes on areas remote from conventional fuel sources.
7. A resolution was passed recommending that the World Power Conference look into the establishment of some sort of center for exchange of information and encouragement of research in solar energy on a world-wide basis.
8. It was generally agreed that the utilization of atomic energy for power would precede any large scale application of solar energy for power. Steps were taken by the Executive Committee to make it possible to discuss the atomic energy phases of power at the Vienna Conference in 1956. It was believed that by that time, significant power research developments could be discussed.

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